try has shown a growth rate of around 25% during the last two years which is better than that of the other countries.

(c) Under the liberalised industrial policy, manufacture of all types of vehicles has been delicensed and import of technology is being permitted liberally. These measures aim to promote this industry.

Failure of Labour Commissioner to take action against the Patriot Newspaper Management

2418. SMT. CHANDRAKALA PAN-DEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour Commissioner, Delhi Government had passed an order on August 5, 19% prohibiting the continuance of lockout declared by the patriot newspaper management;

(b) whether despite Labour Commissioner's order the lockout has neither been lifted nor the salaries of the workers paid since May, 1996;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and why the prosecution proceedings have not been launched against the management as per the provisions of Section 26 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government including a direction to the Labour Commissioner to prosecute the management and have the lockout lifted?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi issued prohibitory order on 5.8.96 under section 10(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 prohibiting continuance of the lockout declared by the Patriot newspaper management. The operation of the prohibitory orders were stayed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide their order dated 12.9.96. Discussion were held by the Government with both the parties.

Appeal from ISMA for Parity in the Prices of Sugar

2419. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry is close to panic because of Government's offer to permit mills to sell 30% above their June allocation in the free trade market;

(b) if so, the justification and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received an appeal from the Indian Sugar Mills Association to make it realise that it is critical now to maintain some sort of parity between the State Advised price, the Statutory revised price and the secondary market price of sugar; and

(d) if so, action taken by the Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In June, 1996, sugar factories were given an opportunity to sell, if they so desired 30% more sugar over and above their normal free sale quota to enable them to dispose off some of their sugar stocks.

(c) and (d) Inspite of the fact that the Central Government fixes Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories to cane growers, the State Government also announce their own State Advised prices which is payable by the sugar factories located in the respective States to the cane growers supplying them sugarcane. Sometimes the State Advised Prices of cane are very high which create difficulties for the sugar industry in the State.

The views of State Governments, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories and Indian Sugar Mills Association have been considered by the Government with regard to sugarcane pricing policy. The question was first considered in the meeting of the sugar Ministers of the State Governments*held in February,